

Assembly Bill No. 1089

CHAPTER 228

An act to amend Section 33503 of, and to repeal Section 33502.5 of, the Public Resources Code, relating to the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy.

[Approved by Governor September 1, 2015. Filed with
Secretary of State September 1, 2015.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1089, Eduardo Garcia. Coachella Mountains Conservancy.

Existing law creates the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy in the Natural Resources Agency and, among other things, authorizes the conservancy to acquire and hold specified lands in the Coachella Valley and the Coachella Mountains for certain open-space, wildlife protection, and recreational uses. Existing law specifies that the governing board of the conservancy consists of 21 voting members, including, among other members, the mayor or a member of the city council of each of the Cities of Cathedral City, Desert Hot Springs, Indian Wells, La Quinta, Palm Desert, Palm Springs, and Rancho Mirage, appointed by a majority of the membership of the respective city council or each city.

This bill would expand to 23 the membership of the governing board of the conservancy, and would include the mayor or a member of the city council of the Cities of Coachella and Indio, appointed by a majority of the membership of the respective city council of those cities.

Existing law prescribes the territory of the conservancy, but expressly excludes the incorporated areas of the Cities of Coachella and Indio, as they exist on January 1, 1994.

This bill would delete that provision excluding those lands in the incorporated Cities of Coachella and Indio from the territory of the conservancy.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 33502.5 of the Public Resources Code is repealed.

SEC. 2. Section 33503 of the Public Resources Code is amended to read:

33503. (a) The governing board of the conservancy consists of the following 23 voting members:

(1) The mayor or a member of the city council of each of the Cities of Cathedral City, Coachella, Desert Hot Springs, Indian Wells, Indio, La Quinta, Palm Desert, Palm Springs, and Rancho Mirage, appointed by a majority of the membership of the respective city council of each city.

(2) The Chairperson of the Tribal Council of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians.

(3) One member of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Riverside, appointed by a majority of the membership of the board of supervisors.

(4) Three members chosen from the general public who reside within the conservancy's territory, one of whom shall be appointed by the Governor, one of whom shall be appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules, and one of whom shall be appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly.

(5) The Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency.

(6) The Director of Fish and Wildlife.

(7) The Executive Director of the Wildlife Conservation Board.

(8) The Director of Parks and Recreation.

(9) The Director of Finance.

(10) The Vice President, Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources, of the University of California.

(11) The State Director for California of the United States Bureau of Land Management.

(12) The Regional Forester for the Pacific Southwest Region of the United States Forest Service.

(13) The Regional Director for the Pacific West Region of the National Park Service.

(b) Any state or federal official who is a member of the governing board and whose principal office is not within the territory of the conservancy may designate a member of his or her executive staff to vote on his or her behalf and otherwise discharge the duties of the member when the member is not in attendance. Notice of that designation shall be promptly communicated in writing to the chairperson of the conservancy.

(c) Each city council, the Tribal Council of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, and the Board of Supervisors of the County of Riverside may appoint an alternate member from its respective entity to attend the governing board meetings and vote on behalf of the appointed member and otherwise discharge the duties of the member when that member is not in attendance. Notice of the designation shall be promptly communicated in writing to the chairperson of the conservancy.